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FEL-001P

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Burns et al.
Serial Number: 09/576,720
Filed: 05/23/2000
For: Nonwoven Laminate Structure

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1-8
[Signature]

Group Art Unit: 1771
Examiner: Pratt, Christopher

Request For Continued Examination

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box RCE
Washington, D. C. 20231

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114(a) of the above-identified application.

A submission as required is provided herewith in the form of an amendment to the claims.

A request for a two (2) month extension of time for response to the outstanding Office Action is provided herewith.

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Athorization is hereby provided to deduct the RCE fee and any additional fee as may be required from J.M. Robertson Intellectual Property Deposit Account No. 50-1424.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Robertson
Reg. No. 36,905

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted along with Amendment "B" to the claims and a request for a 2 month extension of time to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 703-872-9311 on January 6, 2003.



James M. Robertson

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[Handwritten initials]

Group Art Unit: 1771
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Amendment "B"

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Prior to continued examination kindly amend the subject application in the following manner.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly ~~cancel~~ without prejudice claims 1-21.

Kindly **revive** claims 22 and 23 as originally submitted.

Kindly **add** claim 24 as follows.

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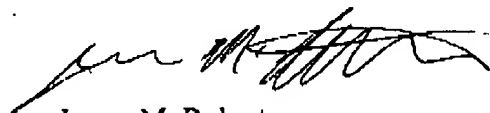
24. (New) A method for forming a nonwoven composite structure comprising the steps of:

- (a) forming a plurality of individual layers of nonwoven fiber material by needle punching a plurality of fiber elements;
- (b) placing layers of heat activatable adhesive between the layers of nonwoven fiber material to form a multi-layer construction;
- (c) needle punching the multi-layer construction through at least one of said layers of adhesive such that a portion of the fiber elements in at least a portion of said individual layers of nonwoven fiber material are forced across said at least one of said layers of adhesive such that mechanical entanglement is established between adjacent layers of said nonwoven fiber material;
- (d) activating said layers of adhesive under pressure thereby bonding said individual layers of nonwoven fiber material together in a laminate structure such that an adhesive layer extends between said individual layers of nonwoven fiber material.

EXTENSION OF TIME:

A request for a two (2) month extension of time accompanies this amendment. To any extent as may be necessary, a request for an additional extension of time is hereby made. Authorization is hereby provided to deduct any fee necessary for such extension of time or otherwise required for the acceptance of this paper from Deposit Account 50-1424.

Respectfully submitted,



James M. Robertson
Reg. No. 36,905

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